

## ***Cheryl Bates-Harris***



### ***Senior Disability Advocacy Specialist National Disability Rights Network***

Cheryl Bates-Harris is a Senior Disability Advocacy Specialist for National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) where she has worked for over 21 years. Her experience and expertise working with people with disabilities has always involved employment. She has an in-depth knowledge of cross disability issues and continues to focus on employment issues of people with disabilities, including Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Security Return to Work, TANF, DOL OneStops, sheltered workshops and other employment programs that affect people with disabilities.

In the late 1990's she was responsible for the development of the SSA Protection and Advocacy Dispute Resolution Project and later, following the passage of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA), the development of the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program. She was an invited participant in the TW & WI AP 2003 EN Summit and was appointed by President Bush in September 2004 to the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel. She is familiar with social security processes, and provides technical assistance and training to the Protection and Advocacy/Client Assistance Programs in all 57 states and territories.

Since the passage of the Act, she has conducted national training and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. She is considered a leading expert on the intersection issues of the Ticket to Work with state vocational rehab services. In regular communication with advocates nationwide, her experience makes her well suited to offer information and advice on the reconsideration process.